

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, EAGR, UNWFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE TO BE INDEPENDENT
COMMITTEE OR TO BE MERGED WITH COMMITTEE ON COM-
MODITY PROBLEMS

REF: ROME 8921

1. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL, THE 66TH FAO COUNCIL DECIDED TO RECOMMEND TO FAO CONFERENCE THAT WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE BE ESTABLISHED AS SEPARATE COMMITTEE OF FAO RATHER THAN COMBINED WITH COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH OPINION WAS ALMOST EVENLY DIVIDED ON ISSUE, AND SOME DELEGATIONS INDICATED THEY WANTED OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH GOVERNMENTS. UNITED STATES AND MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FAVORED COMBINING THE TWO COMMITTEES. THIS WILL BE TOUCHED ON IN CCP SESSION AND FAO COUNCIL, AND DECIDED UPON IN FAO CONFERENCE, AND IT IS THEREFORE TIMELY TO RAISE QUESTION WHETHER WE WISH TO RE-OPEN ISSUE.

2. POSITION OF U.S. AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FAVORING COMBINING COMMITTEES STILL APPEARS TO BE SOUND. CCP AND PROPOSED WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE WOULD OVERLAP TO SOME EXTENT IN FUNCTIONS. CREATING SEPARATE WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE WOULD TO SOME EXTENT UNDERCUT CCP. IT WOULD ALSO CREATE ADDITIONAL ORGANIZATION, FURTHER BOGGING DOWN ALREADY OVERSTRAINED FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES,
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AND WOULD REQUIRE NEW COMMITTEE DEVELOP ITSELF ANEW RATHER

THAN BUILD UPON ALREADY EXISTING CCP STRUCTURE.

3. CHECKING HERE INDICATES ONLY FEW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE STRONG VIEWS FAVORING SEPARATE WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE. THESE ARGUE THAT THIS WAS CALLED FOR IN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION, AND IS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN PROPER EMPHASIS AND ATTENDANCE BY MINISTERIAL LEVEL, WHICH THEY SAY WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE IN COMBINATION WITH CCP BECAUSE OF CCP'S LENGTHY SESSION AND COMPLEX AGENDA. MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INDICATED IN GROUP-77 MEETING DURING FAO COUNCIL MEETING THAT THEY WERE NOT INSTRUCTED, AND SOME OF THEM FAVORED COMBINING COMMITTEES, BUT THEY REMAINED SILENT IN COUNCIL MEETING WHILE OUTSPOKEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FAVORING SEPARATE WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE SPOKE OUT.

4. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, WHOSE VIEW IS SUPPORTED BY INFORMED OFFICER OF FAO SECRETARIAT, BELIEVES IT MAY NOT BE TOO LATE TO TURN AROUND DECISION TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE WORLD FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEE, PROVIDED WE CONSULT SELECTED GOVERNMENTS BEFOREHAND AND PROJECT MORE GENERAL CONSULTATIONS DURING CCP AND 67TH FAO COUNCIL MEETING. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BELIEVES THAT ALTHOUGH OUTCOME IS PROBLEMATIC, U.S. DOES NOT RISK MUCH IN UNDERTAKING SUCH AN EFFORT. VOLPE

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